

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5, 11 and 14 without prejudice, amend claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 13, and add new claim 15 as shown below.

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims follows per 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(3). A marked-up copy of the claim(s) changed by this amendment, showing all changes made relative to the previous version of the claim(s), accompanies this paper on a separate sheet or sheets of APPENDIX.

1. (Amended) An element for a consumer product, the element comprising a carrier and an outer layer, the outer layer formed by a sol-gel process and comprising a polymer material with an inorganic main chain, wherein at least a region of said outer layer has a visual appearance different from the visual appearance of surrounding regions of said outer layer, wherein the visual appearance of the surrounding regions of said outer layer is dull-translucent and wherein the at least a region forms a marking which is visible to the human eye.

2. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least a region is integral with the surrounding regions of said outer layer.

3. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the different visual appearance of said at least one region forming said marking is achieved by laser radiation.

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4. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the visual appearance of the surrounding regions of the outer layer is dull-translucent.

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6. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, the outer layer further comprising at least one filler material.

7. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 6, the outer layer further comprising fluorided hydrocarbons.

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8. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, comprising a further layer of polymer material with an inorganic main chain, wherein said further layer surrounds the at least one region ~~(49)~~ which forms said marking in said outer layer.

9. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inorganic main chain has organic lateral branches.

10. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said organic lateral branches comprise methyl groups.

12. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is comprised of a hard material of permanent shape.

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13. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 15, wherein the hard material is selected from metal and metal alloy, and the carrier further comprising an anodized layer which supports said outer layer.

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18. (Newly added) An element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the hard material is selected from the group consisting of metal, metal alloy, ceramic, glass and hard plastic.

A marked-up copy of the rewritten claim(s), showing all changes made relative to the previous version of the claim(s), accompanies this paper on a separate sheet or sheets of APPENDIX per 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

REMARKS

The provisional election of the Group I claims (claims 1-14) is hereby affirmed.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14 are objected to because of improper multiple dependency. Claims 11 and 14 have been cancelled and the remaining claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies and reference numerals. Accordingly, the objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.